

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13 and 20-24 remain pending in the present application. Claims 4, 12 and 14-19 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 20-24 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 14, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer '910. Claim 1 has been amended to define a baffle that is helicoidally wound within the reservoir chamber to define a helical flow channel and which is in engagement with the pressure tube and the reserve tube. Palmer discloses a helicoidally wound baffle but the baffle does not engage both the pressure tube and the reserve tube.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2 and 3, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claims 14, 17 and 19 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heckethorn. Claim 1 has been amended to define a baffle that is helicoidally wound within the reservoir chamber to define a helical flow channel and which is in engagement with the pressure tube and the reserve tube. Heckethorn discloses a baffle 130 is essentially a cylindrical sleeve and is not helicoidally wound within the reservoir chamber.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2, 8, 10 and 12, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claims 14, 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stock. Stock discloses a baffle 30 which is a garter spring and is not helicoidally wound within the reserve chamber to define a helical flow channel.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2 and 3, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claims 12 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 5-7, 9, 11, 15, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5 depended from Claim 1. New Claim 20 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 5 and is thus believed to be allowable. Claims 21 and 22 are similar to Claims 6 and 7, but depend from Claim 20.

Claim 9 depended from Claim 8 which depended from Claim 1. New Claim 23 is a combination of original Claims 1, 8 and 9 and is thus believed to be allowable.

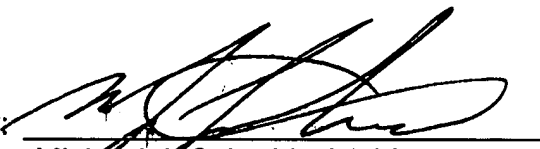
Claim 11 depended from Claim 8 which depended from Claim 1. New Claim 24 is a combination of original Claims 1, 8 and 11 and is thus believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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